

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 SP-02 (ISO) W

----- 099037

R 021501Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4290

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMAASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUIIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T AMMAN 2208

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, XF, JO

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ESTIMATE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) STATE 071859; (B) AMMAN 4762

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1. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON REFERENCE ARE RELATED TO JORDAN, WHICH NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN MIDDLE EAST ESTIMATE.

2. IN THE EVENT FULL SCALE ARAB-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES BREAK OUT, WE ESTIMATE THAT IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT JORDAN COULD STAY OUT OF THE CONFLICT. WE BELIEVE THE CHANCES OF WAR AND THEREFORE OF JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT HAVE INCREASED SINCE THE EMBASSY'S LAST ESTIMATE IN AUGUST 1974 (REFTEL B) AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE COLLAPSE OF THE KISSINGER MISSION. FURTHERMORE, WE DETECT A CERTAIN FATALISM AMONG JORDANIAN POPULATION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER WAR.

3. IT NEVERTHELESS IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT EXTENT OR CIRCUMSTANCES OF JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT. JORDANIAN PREFERENCE IS FOR ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE POSTURE ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES OF PREPAREDNESS (REDEPLOYMENT OF UNITS, ALERTS AND POSSIBLE MOBILIZATION) AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI ATTACK OR IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN ISRAELI MILITARY POSTURE.

4. MAJOR JORDANIAN CONCERN IS OVER POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK OF SYRIA THROUGH JORDANIAN TERRITORY, WHICH JORDAN WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO COUNTER. EVEN IN ABSENCE SUCH AN ISRAELI MOVE AND DESPITE ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE, JORDAN WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO STAY OUT OF THE CONFLICT AS LONG AS IT DID IN OCTOBER 1973 WAR, NO WOULD IT BE ABLE TO RESTRICT INTS INVOLVEMENT TO ONLY A TOKEN LEVEL. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD THINK IN TERMS OF COMMITTING ROUGHLY ONE DIVISION, MOST PROBABLY, AS IN OCTOBER 1973, ON THE SYRIAN FRONT. IT IS HOWEVER UNLIKELY THAT JORDAN WOULD COMMIT ANY MILITARY FORCES UNLESS BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE ALREADY ENGAGED AGAINST ISRAEL AND WE DO NOT SEE JORDAN OPENING A THRID FRONT EXCEPT IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. ALTHOUGH GOJ FEELS POWERLESS TO RESIST FORCES LEADING TOWARDS WAR, GENERAL DISPOSITION OF GOJ IS TO MAKE EVERY
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EFFORT TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO SEIZE ANY PROCEDURAL OPPORTUNITY IN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COULD DELAY OR AVERT THE OUTBREAK OF ANOTHER WAR.
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